



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Arkansas Catfish Production Report

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Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture
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This report contains the results from the **2008 July Catfish Growers Survey**. The data are also posted on our Web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report at the Internet address above. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaires and interviews for this survey.

July 1 Fingerling Inventory Down 45 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in Arkansas had 44.7 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2008, down 20 percent from July 1, 2007. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory with their respective percent change from a year ago are: large foodsize, 1.0 million, down 34 percent; medium foodsize, 10.2 million, down 40 percent; and small foodsize, 33.5 million, down 10 percent.

Arkansas was ranked third in the nation, behind both Mississippi and Alabama, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2008. Broodfish on hand totaled 100,000 fish, down 7 percent; total stockers, at 74.0 million, were down 8 percent; and fingerlings, at 132 million, were down 45 percent from a year earlier.

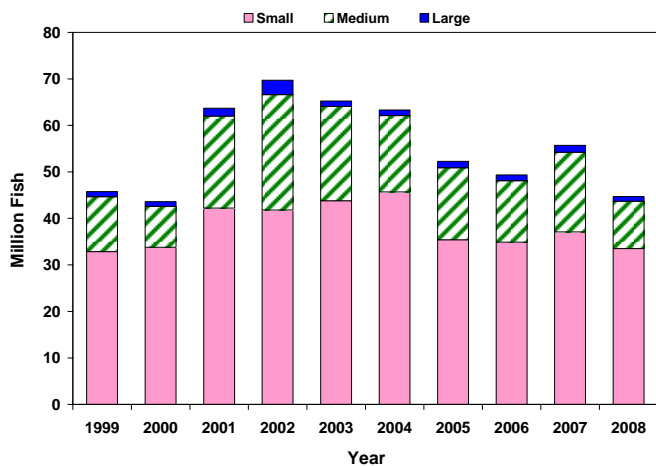
Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, July 1, 2007-2008

Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	2007	2008	% Change from '07	2007	2008	% Change from '07	2007	2008
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish	
Broodfish	108	100	- 7	489	536	+ 10	4.5	5.4
All Foodsize	55,720	44,700	- 20	76,400	57,300	- 25		
Large	1,520	1,000	- 34	5,200	3,600	- 31	3.4	3.6
Medium	17,100	10,200	- 40	34,000	20,600	- 39	2.0	2.0
Small	37,100	33,500	- 10	37,200	33,100	- 11	1.0	1.0
							Pounds per 1,000 Fish	
All Stockers	80,200	74,000	- 8	15,200	18,400	+ 21		
Large	31,800	35,600	+ 12	10,700	14,200	+ 33	336	399
Small	48,400	38,400	- 21	4,500	4,200	- 7	93.0	109.0
Fingerlings	239,000	132,000	- 45	3,700	2,450	- 34	15.5	18.6

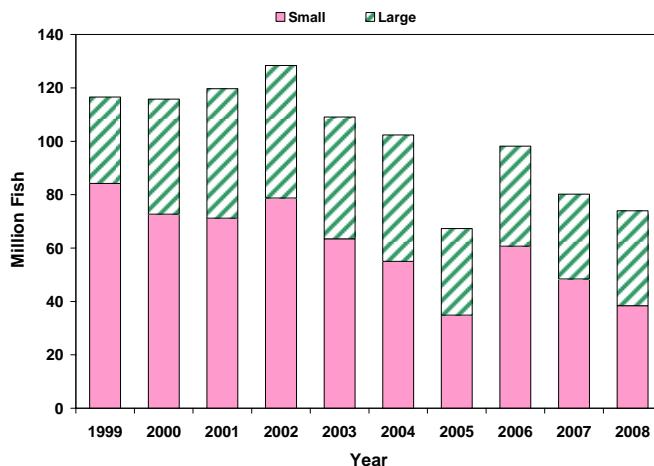
Definitions Used for Catfish Production Estimates

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish or over 6" in length.
- Fingerlings: 2 to 60 lbs. per 1,000 fish or 2" to 6" in length.

Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size, July 1, 1999-2008



Arkansas Stocker Inventory by Size, July 1, 1999-2008



Water Acres Down 17 Percent

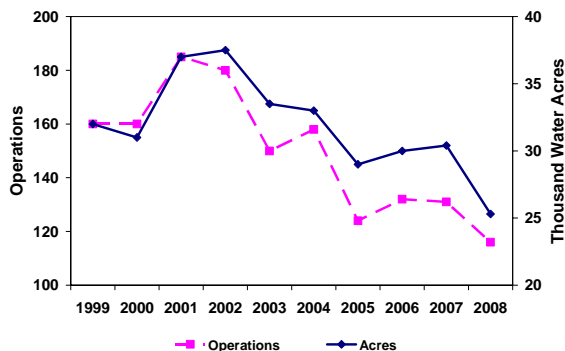
The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1 through December 31, 2008, totaled 25,300 acres, down 5,100 acres, or 17 percent, from a year ago. The total number of catfish operations on July 1, 2008, was 116, down 15 operations from July 1, 2007.

During July 1 through December 31, 2008, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 20,700 acres, while 360 acres of the total in catfish production were scheduled to be renovated. A total of 2,600 acres were taken out of production during the January 1 through June 30, 2008, period.

Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres by State, 2007-2008

State	Number of Operations on July 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production July 1 - Dec. 31	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Number		Acres	
AR	131	116	30,400	25,300
AL	203	175	23,000	21,900
LA	19	17	5,500	4,900
MS	360	330	92,500	80,400
Total	713	638	151,400	132,500

Arkansas Operations and Water Acres, July 1, 1999-2008



Water Surface Acre Usage by State, 2007-2008

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During July 1 - December 31										Acres Taken Out of Production Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	
	For Foodsize		For Fingerlings		For Broodfish		Currently Under or Scheduled for:					
							Renovation		New Construction			
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres											
AR	26,000	20,700	3,800	3,700	*	630	280	360	*	*	670	2,600
AL	21,700	21,000	680	520	420	280	380	845	115	20	750	655
LA	4,800	4,300	610	380	*	0	370	100	*	*	140	680
MS	69,700	63,500	16,000	12,800	2,600	1,600	3,100	1,600	300	50	2,300	7,500
Total	122,200	109,500	21,090	17,400	3,640	2,510	4,130	2,905	495	80	3,860	11,435

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.